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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 10/569,169 | 02/27/2006 | Markus Hame | 60,469-255;5304 | 8609 |
| 64779 | 7590 | 09/20/2007 | EXAMINER | |
| CARLSON GASKEY & OLDS 400 W MAPLE STE 350 BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009 | | | SINGH, KAVEL | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3651 | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/569,169

Applicant(s)

HAME ET AL.

Examiner

Kavel P. Singh

Art Unit

3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/27/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9,11,13-20, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito U.S. Patent No. 5,135,097.

Claims 1-7,16, and 20, Saito teaches a method and appartus plurality of drive wheels (18); a corresponding plurality of deflection wheels (19); a drive member (21) associated with each drive wheel (18), each drive member following a path around the associated drive wheel (18) and at least one corresponding deflection wheel (19); and a monitor device (30) associated with selected ones of the wheels (18,19) that provides an indication of relative rotation between the selected wheels (18,19).

Claims 8,15,17,18, and 19, Saito teaches the monitor device (30) includes a first rotating member (22) coupled to rotate with a first one of the selected wheels (18,19) and a second rotating member (20) coupled to rotate with a second one of the selected wheels (18,19), the first and second rotating members (20,22) moving relative to each other responsive to relative rotation between the selected wheels (18,19).

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Claim 11, Saito teaches one of the rotating members (20,22) is axially fixed and the other rotating member (20,22) is biased into a first axial position and wherein relative rotation between the rotating members (20,22) causes the other rotating member (20,22) to move axially against the bias.

Claims 13 and 14, Saito teaches a brake actuator (34) associated with at least one of the rotating members, the actuator being operative responsive to axial movement of at least one of the rotating members (20,22).

Claim 20, Saito teaches a first rotating member (52) for rotating at the same speed as a first selected wheel (44,46); a second rotating member (56) for rotating at the same speed as a second selected wheel (44, 46), the first and second rotating members (52, 56) changing position relative to each other responsive to relative rotation between the wheels (44, 46).

Claim 24, Saito teaches a step chain associated with a plurality of steps (8) and wherein drive member (21) comprises a belt (20) between each drive wheel (22) and step chain (8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9,10,12, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito U.S. Patent No. 5,135,097 in view of Reinsma U.S. Patent 3,854,345.

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Claims 9,10,21, and 22, Saito teaches the first and second rotating members (20,22), but does not teach as Reinsma teaches bushings (22) having engaging faces (12) that cooperate to cause axial movement of at least one of the bushings responsive to relative rotation between the bushings (C2 L55-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a monitor system to use bushings to engage faces during movement as taught by Reinsma into the invention of Hara to reduce the amount of noise produced from the system..

Claims 12 and 23, Saito teaches rotating members, does not teach as Reinsma teaches a spring (30) that biases the other rotating member (14) into the first axial position (C3 L47-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a monitor system to use springs to align the rotating members during movement as taught by Reinsma into the invention of Hara to maintain the alignment and reduce wear.

Conclusion

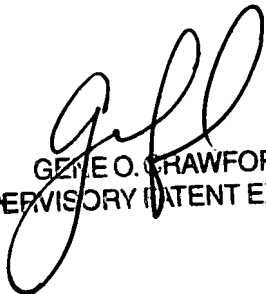
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ms. Kavel P. Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-2362. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KPS


GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER